

# MONARCH TILE MANUFACTURING, INC.

## ALABAMA

EPA ID# ALD067102301



## EPA REGION 4

Lauderdale County  
Florence

### Site Description

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The area surrounding the Monarch Tile Manufacturing, Inc. site is primarily industrial, with Seaboard Railroad tracks to the west and a bus maintenance facility to the south of the site. From 1954 to 1973, Stylon Corp. produced ceramic tiles and glazes on the site. When Stylon went bankrupt in 1973, Monarch leased the property from the City of Florence and took over the production operations. Monarch officially purchased the site in 1980. Both Monarch and Stylon used zinc contaminated with lead, barium, and cadmium as colorants during their operations. Beginning in 1960, these hazardous wastes were sent to a separator and then put into settling ponds. Excess liquid often drained into ditches that run south of the site. In 1976, with the city's permission, Monarch began discharging the contaminated liquids directly into the Florence Sewer System. At first, solid wastes from the site were taken to a nearby municipal landfill. In 1980, Monarch began disposing of these solid wastes in an on-site disposal trench. In 1989, representatives from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) found a variety of heavy metals, including barium, lead, and zinc in sediment samples collected from the settling ponds. In 1990, ADEM tests showed that the drainage ditch also was contaminated with heavy metals, and that the contamination had spread to two neighboring waterways, Cox Creek and a tributary of Sweetwater Creek. In addition to these waterways, Pickwick Lake, a segment of the Tennessee River, is located approximately three miles north of the site, and Cypress Creek is located approximately two miles east. The Florence Water Department supplies drinking water to about 63,000 people from an intake where Cox Creek and Cypress Creek join. The nearby Sheffield Water Department has an intake on the Tennessee River that supplies drinking water to an additional 14,100 people.

**Site Responsibility:** The site is being addressed through Federal and State actions.

#### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 05/10/93

## Threats and Contaminants

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In 1989, local environmental officials discovered heavy metals in settling pond sediments. In 1990, additional testing revealed that Cox Creek and a tributary of Sweetwater Creek also were contaminated with heavy metals. Cox Creek, Cypress Creek, and the Tennessee River are used for recreational fishing. People who touch or ingest contaminated surface water or sediments could be at risk.

## Cleanup Approach

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This site is being addressed in a long-term remedial phase focusing on the cleanup of the entire site.

## Response Action Status

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**Entire Site:** The EPA is scheduling an investigation into the nature and extent of contamination at the site.

## Environmental Progress



The EPA and the State of Alabama have performed initial studies at the site and have determined that no immediate actions are necessary at the site while investigations leading to final cleanup are being planned.

## Site Repository



Not yet established.